

MTS-3326US

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hideki Hayashi et al. : Art Unit: 2872
Serial No.: 10/089,998 : Examiner:
Filed: July 30, 2002 :
For: LENS, OPTICAL HEAD, OPTICAL :
INFORMATION WRITING/READING
APPARATUS AND OPTICAL INFORMATION
RECORDING MEDIUM WRITING/READING
METHOD

SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following Japanese reference is not in the English language:

1) 09-145995

Reference 1) includes an English language abstract.

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Reference 1) was also cited in a search report by a foreign Patent Office in a patent application corresponding to the above-identified patent application. A copy of this search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office, is transmitted herewith.

More than three months have elapsed since the filing of the above-referenced application. No first (non-Final) Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. Accordingly, as more specifically indicated below, a statement as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) is provided herewith.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information disclosed in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


Allan Ratner, Reg. No. 19,717
Attorney for Applicants

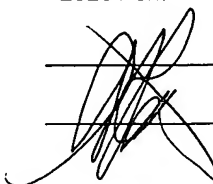
AR/dlm
Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
Copies of (7) References
Search Report

Dated: January 7, 2003

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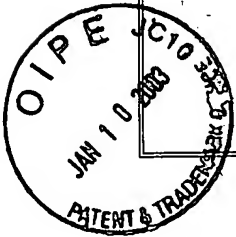
The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
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[illegible]

Exmr Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation YES NO
		9-145995	6/6/1997	Japan (English abstract provided)			
		EP 0 874 359	10/28/1998	EP			
		EP 0 851 415	7/1/1998	EP			
		EP 0 865 037	9/16/1998	EP			
		EP 0 881 634	12/2/1998	EP			

			European Search Report corresponding to application no. EP 00 96 4666 dated December 4, 2002.

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.